

the art. Such modifications and variations are to be considered within the purview and scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. A method of matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising the following steps:

- collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;
- classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
- listing the goods in a secured manner;
- collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria from the buyer;
- verifying the information collected from the buyer;
- selecting an approved buyer based on verified information;
- authorizing the approved buyer to request a query of the listed goods for those goods that the buyer seeks to buy;
- determining which goods are available for the approved buyer to buy based on a linkage between the approved buyer, the query and the pre-selected set of criteria.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein there is a plurality of sellers and buyers.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the approved buyer can purchase from the seller goods which are determined to be available.
4. A method according to claim 1 further including the following additional steps:
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 - collecting information related to seller's identification;
 - verifying the information collected from the seller;
 - selecting an approved seller based on verified information; and
 - authorizing the approved seller to provide information relating to goods of the seller.
 - 10 5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the verifying step comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of publicly available data.
 6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the verifying step comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of privately held data.
 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the identity of the seller is not disclosed to the buyer.
 - 15 8. A method of matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising the following steps:
 - collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;

- classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
 - listing the goods in a secured manner;
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- collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria from the buyer;
 - verifying the information collected from the buyer;
 - selecting a rejected buyer based on verified information; and
 - preventing a rejected buyer from accessing the listed goods.
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9. A method according to claim 8 including a plurality of sellers and buyers.
10. A system for matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising:
- means for collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;
 - means for classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
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- a database containing a listing of the goods in a secured manner;
 - means for collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria from the buyer;

- means to verify the said buyer information;
 - means to select an approved buyer based on the verified buyer information;
 - an input means for permitting the approved buyer to query the database for goods that the approved buyer seeks to buy;
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- a data processor for determining which items of goods are available for the approved buyer to buy based on a linkage between the approved buyer, the query and the pre-selected set of criteria.
11. A system according to claim 10 including a plurality of sellers and buyers.
12. A system according to claim 10 further including:
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- means for collecting information related to seller's identification;
 - means for verifying the information collected from the seller;
 - means for selecting an approved seller based on verified information; and
 - means for authorizing the approved seller to provide information relating to goods of the seller.
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13. A system according to claim 10 wherein the sellers and approved buyers access the system by way of a public communications network.
14. A system according to claim 10 wherein the sellers and approved buyers access the system by way of a private communications network.

15. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a processing means for automatically confirming the buyer information by way of publicly available data.

5 16. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of publicly available data.

17. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a processing means for automatically confirming the buyer information by way of privately available data.

10 18. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of privately available data.

19. A system for matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising:

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- means for collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;
 - means for classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
 - a database containing a listing of the goods in a secured manner;
 - means for collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria
- 20 from the buyer;

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